

# VISUAL SIGNALS

The Internet's Aesthetic 'zine - Vaporwave, Artist Interviews, Album Reviews and more

*Porter Vong*

けん玉

「木製の棒や玉」

熱帯雨林の丘

郭 宋  
源 冬  
潮 野

ヴェイパー・ウェイヴ  
フューチャー・ファンク

VAPORWAVE &  
FUTURE FUNK

3

SHIBUYA NASU 折木

## WAVE RACERS COLLECTIVE



QINGDAO MARKET

ハロウィンの渋谷でプロテスト

NO PROBLEMA TAPES

PLUNDERPHONICS

## THE MYSTERIOUS UNWANTED SIGNALS

Japanese Rave Protests @ 渋谷駅ハチ公前広場 · The Cosmic Truth by Withering Spheres · Vaporwave & Future Funk 9 · Cleaning your Vinyl · Getting into Japanese autorace · DUTCHTIDE original digital art · VAPOR90 LIVE 4.0 · FUJI VHS TAPES · TROPHY EYES - CHLORINE · VINYL COLLECTIONS · WAVE RACERS COLLECTIVE · Outstanding Design Award #4 · SHIBUYA NASU · VIDEO GAME DEVELOPMENT · ROYAL DM70NX ORGANIZER · QINGDAO MARKET · ENTER THE VOID · MTHU X DISKUNION · HOW VAPORWAVE CAN TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE · NO PROBLEMA TAPE · FARRAGOL LIVE SET · #JAPANESEJAZZ · 郭源潮 · Porter Vong · KENDAMA · UNWANTED SIGNALS · NOSTALGIC COLLAGES PLUNDERPHONICS · VAPORSPACE MADNESS · RAINFOREST HILL I & II

# VISUAL SIGNALS

ビジュアル SIGNALS  
ISSUE 3

## **VIP Supporters**

Augnos  
Sheep  
N3kkun  
Mulletovich  
Chiefahleaf

--  
Sierra W

Usually every issue I write a long drawn out update about my life. This issue I just want to say one thing. Thanks to the Patron crew. This issue wouldn't be in color nor look as amazing without you-

Welcome to the next generation of Visual Signals.

*"We Dance Together, We Fight Together."*



## 日本學術會議会員候補の任命拒否に對する抗議街宣

"Abuse of power is repeated" scholars and writers protest in Shibuya due to refusal to appoint the Science Council 本日の渋谷ハチ公前街宣の雰囲気がよく伝わってくる毎日新聞社さんの映像。上西充子さんや毛利嘉孝さんのスピーチ、そしてプロテストレイヴDJsのプレイの様子も収められています。ぜひご覧くださいませ。



日本學術會議会員候補の任命拒否に対する抗議街宣

10/18(日) 17:00-  
@ 渋谷駅ハチ公前広場

任命拒否に反対する学者有志  
Hibi Bliss  
babyiqing B2B Sudden Star (ether)  
PROTEST RAVE DJs  
ドレスコード: マスク+他人との距離





# the cosmic truth withering spheres

By Jay Wallace // @jaywallace1

Fall turns into winter, and an odd, sad calm sets in. Peace seems lacking while all you have is solitude in the year of misery and dread that is 2020. Withering spheres, ([decayingrealms.bandcamp.com](https://decayingrealms.bandcamp.com)) one of the many maestros of Computer Gaze within the Vaporwave scene, has released probably one of the best albums that encapsulates how everyone feels this year, while also making something beautiful, with the cosmic truth.

Using looping neoclassical samples of reverberating pianos, haunting organs and strings, and occasional, quiet vocals you can't quite make out, the cosmic truth isn't a celebration of Fall. Instead, it floats back-and-forth between a stargazer admiring the night sky above themselves ("heavenly bodies," "the new moon," "solace (c moon version)") and possibly the same person contemplating their own loneliness. ("reality is lonely," "confronting past memories," "solace (event horizon version)") the cosmic truth brings to mind Video Forum's two-album alt persona Seasonal Photos, but it doesn't have Colour Television/Restoration's sense of awe. the cosmic truth's general feeling is, "cherish this, because it's all going away." (The last track is titled "end of life entertainment scenario.")

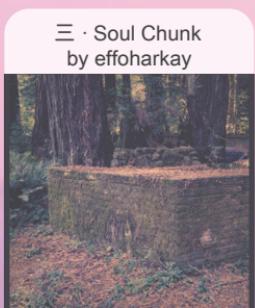
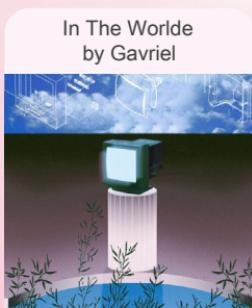
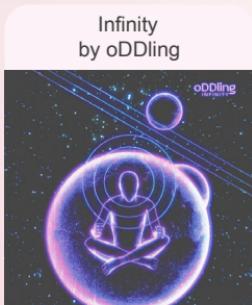
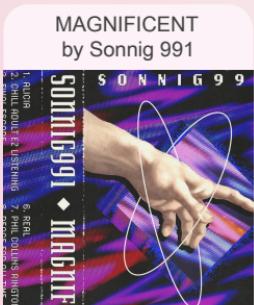
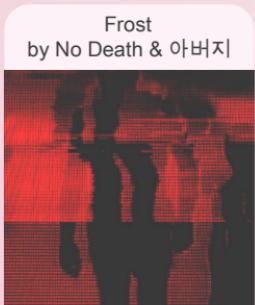
This sounds like a bummer album, but it isn't. It's beautiful to listen to, calming even. "whispers in the darkness (requiem)" features looking orchestral strings as a woman's whispers echo: you can make out "sublime," "the fragrance," "the fear," "the dance," fade in and out over the course of five minutes and forty seconds. It's ghostly, but not frightening. "melancholy" features dominating reverberating pianos as waves breaks upon a beach. And then there's "sorrow without solace," a crackly, tape-hiss-filled piano piece with the two-note vocalizations of a man that you can't make out. It's poignant, dreamlike.

Withering spheres left this in the description for the cosmic truth: "in my restless dreams, i still see that place. i can still remember your familiar face, i can feel your familiar presence." WS might be talking about someone/someplace special to themselves, but is this not also how people feel once winter approaches, once a new year approaches? We're trapped inside, escaping the cold, waiting for the warmth of spring to come... except, in 2020, that's how all year has felt. We're looking for beauty somewhere, anywhere. But it's still there. You just need to look up, and maybe inside yourself.

1. the cosmic truth (02:12)	9. audience with the cosmos (02:06)
2. reality is lonely (01:18)	10. melancholy (04:11)
3. unforgettable (01:17)	11. beyond the cosmic horizon (02:13)
4. heavenly bodies (01:03)	12. sorrow without solace (02:12)
5. solace (c moon version) (02:14)	13. confronting past memories (02:38)
6. solace (event horizon version) 01:14)	14. whispers in the darkness (05:40)
7. dreams (01:59)	15. life in motion (02:04)
8. the new moon (01:46)	16. end of life entertainment scenario (03:32)

In my restless dreams, i still see that place.  
i can still remember your familiar face, i can feel your familiar presence.

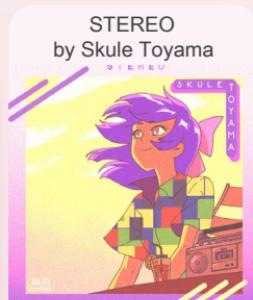
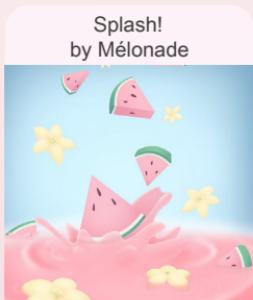
# ヴェイパーウェイヴ Vaporwave 9



The list above is some of the top selling tagged Vaporwave on Bandcamp for the month of October for the first 20 days. Surprisingly not too much halloween based releases but I'm going to guess those will come out on halloween night or the day before. Unfortunately, I can't wait that long to publish issue three as the review time can take up to a week. Regardless, this issue we did find some awesome releases. Z.E.R.Os lately release has to be their best yet. S O A R E R was also a radar album for me. I also thought Sonnig 991 and oDDling album art could be in the same sci-fi universe. Did I miss an album you really liked? Let me know on twitter @signalsvisual

# Future Funk 9

## フューチャー・ファンク



Oddly enough, the Future Funk tag on bandcamp is being abused by anyone trying to get attention on their albums. Even like the most ambient stuff some times puts the tag future funk down. It's kind of annoying for putting lists like this together. I can't imagine what it means to the future funk guys who are constantly trying to find their next hit of the addicting genre. One this is for sure. This list will always contain the best I could find for that month. I hate to say it but if you're a future funk fan, you might want to join the discord to find the latest. There isn't an easy way with bandcamp alone to follow the scene. If you're an artist, don't abuse the tag please- NOT ALL VAPORWAVE IS FUTURE FUNK!!!

# CARING FOR YOUR BY N3KKUN

You may be wondering how to get those cracks and pops off your vinyl record for clean, smooth, and easy listening. This has been a problem for the ages and I can almost guarantee you that everyone will have their own unique way of doing it or their favorite snake oil brand they will suggest to you. After being a collector for over 15 years I come to bring my experiments and personal experiences to you in hopes that you too can listen to a clean crisp record.



We're going to start with the most common brands and products you can buy from your favorite retailer and how they actually perform. I'll explain the snake oil of the liquid cleaning market and even full on contraptions that will set you back a full paycheck or more. The famous "RCA Brush". This product gets a lot of bad reputation because most people see this as a solution to every sound problem with their records when in fact this is only effective for very specific cleaning.

This brush will pick up heavy and large objects - such as visible dust and hair - on the surface of your vinyl and that's it. It's usually paired with a cleaning solution that actually does its job fairly well. I personally haven't had the need to use it beyond a few times as the dry brush gets most large obstructions.

How do I use the brush? It's very simple! This brush has directional fibers that only go one way. The arrow is telling you what direction they are pointed. I drew a really quick reference image to show you how it works. Running the record at 45RPM (even if it is a 33) I place it down on the record as shown and slowly move it to the other side. After about 3 or 4 rotations of the record you should have picked up the majority of the large objects. Simply wipe off with a clean microfiber cloth and repeat as needed. I like to do this to every record I pull out as it helps maintain your records over a long period of time.

Next up is the most popular and most recommended cleaning brush by far - Boundless Brushes. These brushes use a carbon fiber brush that is advertised to not cause or add static charge which is a good thing! My issue with these guys is that they do a similar job as the RCA brush but require a bit more work. While a lot of people recommend this one it has a few issues. The RCA brush "lifts" particles off the record while the Boundless brush "pushes" particles around creating extra work for you. A brand new Boundless brush will actually shed a few fibers and cause really loud noises on your record if you don't pick them up.



After you break this brush in it will actually push off dust particles you can't even see and perform better than the RCA brush. I recommend this if your record is slightly popping or noisy and the RCA brush can't fix it. This brush should be used first as so the RCA brush will pick up fibers created by the Boundless brush. Methods of use vary greatly from user to user. I use the "drag" method where I start in the center of the vinyl and "drag" it to the outer edges very slowly over the course of a few rotations.

This little thing is one of the best purchases I've made for cleaning anything related to vinyl. It's a bit expensive landing at the 35\$-50\$(USD) range depending on stock and demand but entirely worth the entry price. As you play records

# RECORDS

## EPISODE ONE: CLEANING YOUR VINYL



- even with cleaning them daily - you will notice if you look closely enough that your needle will start picking up little and large particles as it plays through a record. This is a piece of polymer that you very gently (cannot stress gently enough) press up against your needle and it picks up all the dust particles you can imagine. This will beat any stylus brush product you can find any day. I highly recommend this one - even knock off brands are good.

The Record Washer System by Spin Clean is one of the best products I've used to deep clean vinyl. It is usually out of stock or sold at a highly marked up price due to demand and production.

I've used this at a friends' place a few times on my dirties of dirt records and actually heard an improvement. It's good to note that it won't make a record brand new. This is what you want to use if you thought it was a good idea to take promo shots of your record in the sand at a beach. All particles small and big will get caught in this cleaning system and you will hear a great reduction in pops and noise in your records when you follow the directions included. This is for deep cleaning and shouldn't be used daily.

Be sure you get an extra dish drying rack for your records if you pick one of these up.

If you look hard enough you will come across these record cleaning "machines" that will cost you anywhere from 300\$ to 5000\$(USD) and upwards.

What do these machines do? What makes them so expensive? In my book, to qualify as a cleaning "machine" for vinyls, you have to have two or more of these things included in one machine: Vacuum, vibrator mechanism, liquid cleaning solution, or compressed air.

These machines use a combination of things to achieve as close to perfect cleaning as you can. No machine - no matter how much you pay - will fully clean a dirty vinyl to pristine quality. However, I have had the chance to try one of these out quite some time ago and I can say for sure that these machines will do a better job than anything else listed in this article - combined. If you have such a disposable income that it's no issue to drop thousands of dollars on a vinyl cleaning device, this is your one stop shop.

Here is the big takeaway. If you are having some serious noise issues that can't be solved by brushing them away or cleaning them off with special cleaning solutions your best bet is going to be the multi-thousand dollar machines or some kind of MacGyver solution that includes all features of those expensive machines. When dust gets into the deep grooves that only a needle can touch you are going to need some heavy-duty fixes. The combination of a high powered vacuum and a high intensity vibrating mechanism to ultra-sonic levels is one of the few things that can make a record sound new again.

On another note, it's good to keep in mind that the cleaning solutions included with most of the cleaning products are actually very effective at what they do. Try putting a drop of the cleaning solution that comes with the RCA brush (D4+) next to a drop of water on a record and you will notice that the cleaning solution seeps into the grooves while the water stays in a bubble form. The D4 will have seeped into the grooves and broken its surface tension. Wipe up with the RCA brush and let dry.



Yes Coke Yes ナベサダ親子編CM 1982年





Autorace is a municipally operated gambling sport that takes place exclusively in Japan. In this game of whose the fastest, 8 racers speed around 5 different race venues on different style of motorcycles. This isn't just a male sport, even some of the best racers are female, which makes it even more exciting.

You'll notice that they wear almost hockey goalie pads on the torso which kind of makes them look like they are medieval henchmen on bikes. At least that's what I take from it. Just about every day they put on YT live betting events with the chat furiously typing out their favorite number or racer. You don't see any english speakers there, so I'm trying to introduce the sport to the west  
-- KITE0080

川口オートレース  
中継 2020年10  
月13日 川口市営  
第8回2節 最終日





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近日公開



INSTAGRAM: DUTCHTIDE

FIND OUT MORE: DUTCHTIDE.COM

# VAPOR95 LIVE 4.0

— SEPTEMBER - 27TH - 2020 —

START AT 4PM EST

LOLA DISCO  
ADRIANWAVE  
CVLTVRE  
KISSMENERDYGIRL  
NEON VECTORS  
LIMOUSINE  
PAD CHENNINGTON  
ANDROID APARTMENT  
TUPPERWAVE  
FUTURE GIRLFRIEND MUSIC  
VAPERROR  
MACROSS 82-99  
FLAMINGOSIS

VAPOR95 Live 4.0 was one of the best streams of September without a doubt. I had to shoutout ADRIANWAVE for his performance not only was the music straight jams but the aesthetic for his stream was so wavy. He ever surprised everyone by streaming his set live, picking up his phone during the set to interact with the chat. Talk about reading the crowd. I haven't seen a set so visually interesting since Wizard of Lonely's Animal Crossing set. There's a lot to admire about VAPOR95 and I'm adding VAPOR95 Live 4.0 to the list.



# SUPER HG



**フジビデオカセット**

放送局から、ご家庭まで。

**FUJI**  
VIDEO





Water ran from my body.

Crystal clear,

Chlorinated and sky blue.

The icy cold brought life back to  
my feet,

Every breath in was something I  
owed you.

I heard they cut you down in your  
own bedroom.

I wondered if you'd still remember.

When we remember,  
We only get a version of,  
The last time we remember it.  
As time rolls on, like it always  
does.

Though it might be a little different

I won't forget.

Tell me why,  
I didn't die in that swimming pool?

When you saved my life,  
Did you know you would take your  
own?

Who decides if we stay or if we  
go?

Did it cross your mind,  
That I'm alive because of you?

I heard they cut you down in your  
own bedroom.

I wonder if you'd still remember.  
You gave it all away for a girl.

To fix it,  
You just ended it.

When we remember,  
We only get a version of,  
The last time we remember it.  
As time rolls on, like it always  
does.

Though it might be a little different

I won't forget.  
I swear i wont forget.

Just two kids,  
When you pulled me out.  
We never really spoke,  
But I still saw you around.  
Friends of friends,  
What does that mean to you now?  
I heard everybody came,  
When they put you in the ground.

# TROPHY EYES

CHLORINE

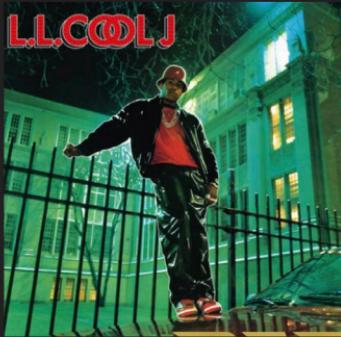
TROPHY EYES | HOPELESS RECORDS | 2016

# Ramirez De Leon

## Vinyl Collection

Vinyl is exceptional. In this form, albums reveal a large space for artwork and can be the best way to collect music. Here are four prized records from my collection.

### LL COOL J: BIGGER AND DEFFER (BAD) [1987]

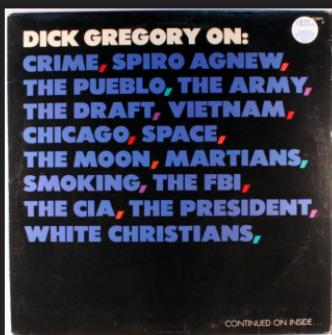


This album is very special for me and for the history of popular music. The lead single "BAD" was perhaps my very first experience with a Hip-Hop song and most definitely one of the first Hip-Hop music videos I ever saw. My dad had this album and music video on VHS. LL COOL J defined and shaped the sound of Hip-Hop for decades to come.

Agile, versatile, and stylish. The cover features Cool J on the top of a car, gold chain around his neck, sporting his iconic Kangol cap. A building is lit in the background with an emerald shade. The typeface and the photo it adorns is stunning. LL COOL J's "BAD" has one of the best Hip-Hop covers ever made.

*Bigger and Deffer (abbreviated as BAD on the album cover) is the second studio album by American rapper LL Cool J, released on May 29, 1987 by Def Jam Recordings and Columbia Records. It features the first commercially successful "rap ballad", "I Need Love".*

### Dick Gregory: "DICK GREGORY ON:" [1969]



The full title of this album is displayed on the cover. "DICK GREGORY ON: CRIME, SPIRO AGNEW, THE PUEBLO, THE ARMY, THE DRAFT, VIETNAM, CHICAGO, SPACE, THE MOON, MARTIANS, SMOKING, THE FBI, THE CIA, THE PRESIDENT, WHITE CHRISTMAS,

The late comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory in his unforgettable style. Commentary with no punches pulled. Gregory talks about basically everything under the sun. Race, life, politics, especially. He offers such a real and raw account of the happenings in his world. And always, so far ahead of his time. Long live "Baba" Dick Gregory.

*In his day Dick Gregory was a stand-up comic, political and civil rights activist, a conspiracy theorist and entrepreneur.*

*Married to the same woman since 1959, he has 10 children.*

## Shabazz Palaces: LIVE at THIRD MAN RECORDS [2015]



In 2015 Shabazz Palaces did a live show at Third Man Records in Nashville, TN.

During the performance, it was being recorded at the same time, so a couple of hundred copies could be pressed for guests at the venue. A scarce item in my collection. A great group. The record itself is half blue/ half black.

Shabazz Palaces is an American hip hop duo from Seattle composed of Ishmael Butler a.k.a. Palaceer Lazaro (formerly Butterfly of jazz rap group Digable Planets) and multi-instrumentalist Tendai "Baba" Maraite, son of mbira master Dumisani Maraite.

Butler notes that the work of Shabazz Palaces differs from his previous work stylistically. He cites his primary influences as "abstract", pulling from podcasts and mixtapes. Butler attributes the use of African percussion and jazz overtones to his family's musical preferences.

## TEKKEN 2 [1995] [2019]



In all its retro and nostalgic glory, the Tekken 2 soundtrack was re-released in 2019 and featured two beautiful records: one is yellow, the other is blue. The album has every song from the Playstation One classic. Tekken 2 was one of the first fighting games I had ever played. The music is some of the best I've ever heard on a video game. The 80s pop compositions fit well with the dreamy rework of the classic cover-art: such a great game, memorable music, and an amazing era. Tekken is great.

The final part of the intro in which the screen shows Heihachi's face and then moves up towards the sky, eventually showing the game's logo, would later be mimicked in Tekken 5: Dark Resurrection.

The Tekken 2 cover art appears as a poster in the arcade in the Digimon games Digimon Story: Cyber Sleuth and Digimon Story: Cyber Sleuth – Hacker's Memory.

Facts and extra excerpts from Wikipedia, Discogs and Fandom

# WAVE RACERS

## Getting to know Vayu of WRC

Every once in a while a label reaches out and sends me a promo package to help promote their latest releases. I have a strict “I don’t take anything for free policy at MTHU”, but yet [Vayu of Wave Racers Collective](#) snuck one by me by sending me a package before telling me. What I ended up getting will be released as a YouTube video later this month (yeay more unboxing videos) but I felt so grateful for the experience that I wanted to know more about Vayu and the label.

The [Vayu](#) name started off as an artist name back in early 2018. He had just released his new album [Focus](#) and it just made sense to continue using that name going forward. The origins of the [Wave Racers Collective](#) was brought together how all great things on the internet is started, through a dedicated community wanting to build something unique. In September of 2018 a collab concept album was expertly put together to express the stages of grief, this would go on to be WRC first digital release, [Vol. I: The Grief Project](#). The agony found on the album art speaks for itself as each track depicts the 9 stages of the grieving process. Quite a unique concept.



After a year of a few more releases he thought it was time to turn Wave Racers Collective into a proper label and started releasing Vaporwave albums on a weekly bases to see where things would go. As part of building his brand in the scene, He started off with a skeleton illustration that would later turn into his real life gimmick, a masked character “like [Uncle Death](#) of [Let It die](#)”, a skateboarding grim reaper from a Japanese video game. When we questioned Vayu about his thoughts on the importance of anonymity in Vapor, he wasn’t too concerned about if his face ever got out there. The mask just made for a better performance. Performances you can find on his Twitter announcements for each release on the label.

# COLLECTIVE



Since the successful release of [Summer Bay](#) by [TUPPERWAVE](#), the label has seen its following growing better than he had imagined, which led to more ambitious projects. See Vayu had an idea, after investing in Overwatch loot boxes, that he wanted to see translated into the vapor world, collectable cards. "I was just thinking I could do a similar kind of thing with my cassettes," he explains. The experiment did pay off as with each new cassette release he throws in two cards and he constantly sees people posting about which cards they received on Twitter. It's a wonderful way for people to learn about new artist and those already on the label. Although the cards are a great novelty item to add to ones vaporwave collection, it was the latest [Diskette Park](#) album that excited me the most and one I wanted to learn more about.

Vayu had always been a bit of a fan of [Diskette Park](#) and when he first listened to the album [Vision](#), it quickly became one of his favorites. This experimental 2 hour long album stuck with Vayu and he knew he wanted to get it out on cassette. The thing was, it would require a 2 cassette release and [Diskette Park](#) was down but Vayu is a man of ideas and he had one more up his sleeve.

After a few weeks of talking to [Diskette Park](#), Vayu found a Vapor clothing brand, [Palm Treat](#), on Instagram and reached out. After talking a bit, they thought it would make for a great release to market both a clothing and cassette bundle. The idea was a huge success as the deluxe [Diskette Park](#)'s

[Vision](#) cassette and T-shirt bundle sold out as quickly as it was announced. With this in mind, Vayu added "And just know! this is far from the first we'll be doing in this way! I really hope everyone enjoys it."

It was great getting to know more about WRC and the man behind it. I learned more about his drive to build a better vaporwave label his love for [Bojack Horseman](#) and so much more. We appreciate the interview and I feel inspired by him, find more at:

[waveracerscollective.bandcamp.com](http://waveracerscollective.bandcamp.com)  
[twitter.com/thewaveracers](http://twitter.com/thewaveracers)





# Outstanding Design Award

## Lovers Entwined ~ The Way

Ever since 100% Electronicon and the mystical crystal at the Telepath concert I have kind of opened up to the idea of crystals. Everyone in that crowd felt something special that night as the mysterious man held a crystal in the orange and pink sky behind the powerful ambience that Telepath graced us with. So since then I've lightly looked at books about Crystals, even listened to a few YouTube videos recommending which ones to get for abundance and happiness. Yet, I still haven't took the plunge into pseudoscience.

But! When I saw that *Lovers Entwined by The Way* was being released on Virtual Dream Plaza on one, I was instantly mesmerized with the idea of owning one. The idea of an actually cleansed and charged "Dream Crystal" with a full album embedded inside felt like a perfect dream... that was until I saw the price tag of 60 USD, unfortunately I'm not living large enough to invest in such a wonderful product. Regardless, it's such a unique release and one that still captures my imagination.. making this release the 4th Outstanding Design Award winner~

"Each Dream Crystal has been individually cleansed and then charged with the Love energy of Lovers Entwined. They are hand cut and assembled by professional jeweler, The Curator."

To get the most out of your Dream Crystal:

- Hold it while setting your dream intent before you sleep.
- Place it next to your bed while you sleep.
- Hold it while listening to The Way.



  
<https://virtualdreamplaza.com/the-way>

# A new foe has appeared!



## CHALLENGER APPROACHING

# SHIBUYA NASU 折木

Earlier this month a mysterious Twitter account pinged all the Vaporwave Youtubers, myself included, announcing that they have released their first “serious” video for their “Asian area homies!”

What did that mean? I wasn’t sure until I watched the video I had just been tagged in. To my pleasant surprise, the video starts with 大家好 (or hello everyone in Chinese) and a new face talking about future funk quicker than I can understand. My Chinese might be good, but not enough to talk about future funk. I was now intrigued.

Shibuya Nasu’s (or as he goes by on YT 折木) new video was well edited, full of sample songs, future funk anime gifs and (I expect) full of great future funk deets about the label, Pink Neon Tokyo.

I wasn’t able to understand most of the video, 東京強勢Future Funk 社團 - Pink Neon Tokyo之2020大合輯解析! [音樂介紹 #1] but it left me wanting to encourage the new guy, so I reached out for an interview to get to know our new Vaporwave ambassador for the East.

### How did you get into the vaporwave scene?

The first time i know the term “Vaporwave” was when I watch the video from This Exist. Back then I still have no clue. I did listen to リサフランク 420 / 現代のコンピュー back in 2016 tho since I found it relaxing. But I still don’t know the culture very well. The reason I step into the scene was when I first started listening to chill synth/Lofi synthwave tbh. The very first album that gave me a big influence is 夢鬱 - 夢鬱. This is such a masterpiece.

## What's the Vapor scene like in Taiwan?

Vaporwave is extremely underground here. Even some bigger genre like Future Funk, is still very unknown here. Taiwanese music taste is still mainly focus on Mandarin or English pop song. (But we got awesome producers like FarragoL, Saury etc)

## Who are your favorite vaporwave artists?

This question is very hard haha. If I had to choose one then I'll go with Mikazuki Bigwave. (Even he now mainly make Anime Groove) His 海辺のSENTIMENTAL helped me get through a really hard time. But for "Vaporwave" artists, I love Windows96 the most. I almost got his all physical releases. I love the way he approaches those warm lofi morning synth & bell vibes. His music became a big part of my life for sure.

## What's one random fact about you?

Before vaporwave, I listened to dubstep basically 24/7 and I'm the founder of Dubstep Taiwan. (Now I left the scene to seek for some tranquility and peace)



I wanted to know more about Shibuya Nasu so I did a quick google search and found that he also releases future music under this name. Seems he's been releasing music videos on YT for about 3 months and on Bandcamp as early as 2016. Its decent future funk / anime groove and totally worth the listen. At least here you can feel the music if you can't understand his youtube videos.

I'm happy to see future funk and vaporwave get new spokesmen and even happier that it's for those outside the western scene. Go give him some support and subscribe! Can't wait to see what video he comes out with next. Maybe I can even learn better Chinese from it~

# Royal DM70nx Organizer

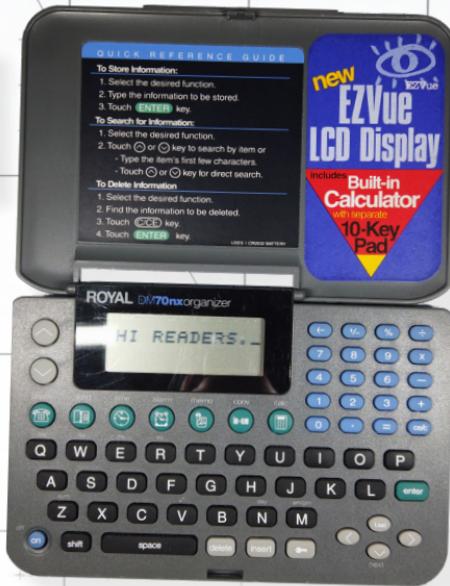
**Display:** Digital LCD  
**Size:** 133 mm x 90 mm  
**Year Introduced:** 1998-2002  
(Estimated)

Recently, I went rummaging through my sidetable's drawers and found my old PDA/digital assistant, a Royal DM70nx. I got this possibly before I was a teenager (I can't find info on when these were released) fascinated by quartz-screened Palm Digital Assistants of the late '90s/early '00s... and put it in a drawer probably not long after acquiring it because what I wanted, a palm size computer, wouldn't be a thing until Blackberrys, and then modern smartphones, came to be.

All this Royal Organizer does is store phone numbers, memos and schedules, let you set alarms, convert units of measurement (which is actually handy) and act as a calculator. It's memory is measured in kbs; how many, I'm not sure, but one of its bigger brothers apparently has 96kbs of memory. This probably has less. And all of this is incased in dark grey plastic and powered by three 2032 button batteries.

I do like the form factor of this. A proper keyboard on something not much bigger than a smartphone, even with limited editing capabilities and an old-school LCD, would make for a perfect compact word processor. Sadly, that's not what this is.

I decided to take it to work one day and play around with it, in an attempt to stay off my phone and bE PrOduCTiVe while on break. But compared to a modern smartphone or an iPod Touch, this isn't adequate. Not enough storage, not enough capability or usability. It was a disappointment when I was a teenager, and it's a disappointment now.



# APPLYING VAPORWAVE PRODUCTION To Video Game Development

By Matt Christodoulou @vibex\_

In the professional game design world, designer roles are incredibly specialized. Unfortunately, independent game designers often work alone and must wear many hats on their team. It is incredibly daunting to create games as a small team lacking the skillsets to design all the assets themselves and reach the production levels of a triple-A studio. This encourages many designers to pursue the vaporwave ethos of asset theft, concept mixing/remixing, and liminal spaces.



Asset theft allows independent designers to skip the arduous task of creating everything from scratch. Why painstakingly produce pixel art when there are countless NES and SNES games to steal art from? While this obviously opens designers up to legal disputes, most of them are simply looking to demonstrate their skills, not sell their games directly. Fan games like *I Wanna be the Guy* are prime examples of asset theft in action. Which uses Mario, Street Fighter, Mega Man, and Sonic sprites increased the game's production value and enticed fans of those series to play the game.

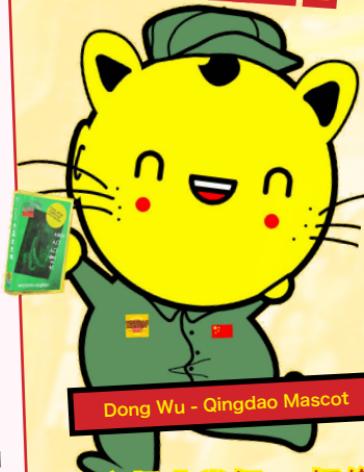
Concept mixing and remixing allows designers to explore unique approaches to game design. Instead of trying to compete with the resources of a triple-A studio, independent designers can combine genres until they have an entirely unique idea. For instance, *Lovely Planet* avoids competing with traditional FPS games by marrying shooter mechanics with the time pressure of a racing game, creating a novel and engagingly strange experience.



Concept mixing and remixing allows designers to explore unique approaches to Lastly, liminal spaces allow independent designers to explore fringe game design. Like concept mixing/remixing, it allows designers to ignore their limited budgets and instead focus on creating something strange players haven't experienced before. However, liminal spaces also allow designers to disguise their games' genre, allowing them to attract disparate player bases. *Superhot* pretends to be an FPS when in actuality it is a surreal descent into technological madness through the mechanics of a high-stakes puzzle game. By existing in this liminal space between genres, *Superhot* was able to capture two unique audiences, and receive greater critical acclaim than countless games with larger budgets.Independent designers can combine genres until they have an entirely unique idea. For instance, *Lovely Planet* avoids competing with traditional FPS games by marrying shooter mechanics with the time pressure of a racing game, creating a novel and engagingly strange experience.

Rarely does one see a new and low-key vaporwave label break through to any kind of popular attention. One day, scouring bandcamp for new artists and labels, I came across a label offering "Flower Store" by Mackintosh Plus on a new label called Qingdao Market. There was only one tape available, so I bought it. I loved everything about it, but I was confused. Everything about the tape was perfectly ridiculous. What was this thing, exactly? Bootleg by Chinese pirates? God-tier satire by anonymous scenester? The tapes quickly began to sell out faster than Geometric Lullaby, so I missed a few, but with each new release, regardless of its origins, the artwork is always brilliant, blending reverence for the artist with parody of the tape's specific aesthetic (and of bootlegging in general). Is this a joke? Surely this is a joke, right? But the music on each tape I've heard manipulates the original perfectly, capturing both its essence while creating something new and bizarre and hilarious. Each release sounds like an alien or monkey on LSD has been played a vaporwave masterpiece and then asked to recreate it.

# QINGDAO MARKET



Dong Wu - Qingdao Mascot

市场非常好。好价钱。美好生活!!!

So we had to reached out to label director Li Jeng for an interview to find out more behind this project:

东吴来兮！

## How did Qingdao get started?

"QINGDAO MARKET start when we see vapor wave casete tape price go way to high!!! ! my partner and i recruit friends who like vapor wave to set up shop to make tape for all of u!!! !"

## What makes a good Qingdao release?

"We look thru comment on reddit,youtube,fb and other place too see what casete ppl want but can no get because of terrible scalp price!!! !! we wan to make sure all ppl who like vapor wave casete to have them!!"

## What kind of tech do you use for making your cassettes?

"We use many profesional casete deck to record in best quality for u!!! !! we do all label an cover printing in own factory!!"

You've had a lot of success in the vaporwave scene, what with shout-outs from Christtt, Haircuts for Men, Pad, HKE, and Dennis Rodman. To what do you attribute the label's rapid success?

"We think sucess come from drive an qualy of releeases! !! we thnk also tht artist like art style from us!!! ! we try being unique for u!"

You've done a Reel-to-Reel release, right? How did that come about, and will you have releases on any other types of media in the future? (floppy-disk, vinyl, cell-phone, minidisc, etc.)

"We did gold reel2reel casete as specail editon!!! !!! !! we reserve only for fan editon an artist copy!! YES! We plan on makign floppy disc an mini disc to! We maybe make vinyl record in faaaaar future!!!!"

Do you see anything wrong with bootlegging music that is or was primarily based on sampling other people's music without permission, acknowledgment or compensation?

"we consider us guerilla movement for rare casete tape!!! ! we give ppl wht they want!!! !! ! artist can always reach to us on twitter for free copy always!"

What is the ultimate goal of Qingdao Market? and any last words?

"Our goal is so evry vapor wave fan can have historic tape from vapor wave time period!! VISIT US ON TWITTER AN BIGCARTEL PAGE!!! !!! thnk u eric for fun inter view!! :)))))"

#### QINGDAO MARKET DISCOGRAPHY:

Mackintosh Plus - Flower Store	(QM-01)
Charles Persona - Echojam	(QM-02)
Men's Haircut - Marble Stone Fantasy	(QM-03) w/ 1 fan edition cassette & R2R
281-4 - New Birthday	(QM-04)
Sane Cola - Hot Vibes	(QM-05) w/ 1 fan edition cassette & R2R
Crushtt - Social Justice Anyhow	(QM-06)
"Secret Files" floppy disk giveaway	(QM-SP) edition of 1
Dead Moving Blanket - I Try Living In Like This	(QM-07)
9 in 11	(QM-08)
Pat Chingtton - Chloroplast	(QM-09)

#### COMING SOON TO QINGDAO MARKET:

E-Sprite - virtual zipper	(QM-10)
冰河 - 迷夢 (Re-issue of Geo-051)	(QM-??)
Party Goals! Kawaii in Qingdao (future funk compilation) V/A	(QM-??)

HALLOWEEN WEEKEND  
(OCTOBER 30 + 31)

• VILL4IN PROJECT PRESENTS •

# ENTER THE VOID

## AUDIO:

1AMBLLNTS  
<BODY>  
AKIURA  
ANGEL MARCLOID  
AREL  
AURAGRAPH  
B O D Y L I N E  
BATHROOM PLANTS  
BLURRED HOLOGRAM  
BROKEN CANYON  
CALAVERA LOVE  
CHUNGKING MANSIONS  
CODE ABI  
COMPACTDISC ステレオドラマ  
CVLTRE  
CYROSAUNA  
DERRICK BOO  
DESERT SAND FEELS WARM  
AT NIGHT  
  
DEVD MVNE  
DISKETTE PARK  
DOWNSTATE  
DROIDROY  
EMPRESS インターナショナル  
ETERNAL JUDGE  
EVRYN  
EXMEMORY  
FOX3R  
FM FOREST  
FOREST KIDS COLLECTIVE

FORNAX VOID  
GHOUL  
GLACIOLOGY  
GOLDEN LIVING ROOM  
H A Z E  
HANTASI  
HKE  
HUMANITAS  
IMCOPAV  
JOCAN DEKA  
KAGAMI SMILE  
L I F E 2 9 7 9 光  
LUCID SOUND DRIVER  
LOVELY  
M Y D R E A M Y A D V E N T U R E  
MACHINEFIEND  
MAYTEN  
METROGRADIENT  
MOTIONFIELD  
MR.HIDEYOSHI  
MVEJIMV  
NO DEATH  
N'THING  
P A T H S  
PAD CHENNINGTON  
PALENCE  
PARUNORMAL  
PASSIVE REFRACTION  
PIXELORD  
PJS  
PREKURSOR  
PROJECT LAZARUS  
QDMX / 軽描淡寫

RASHIDA PRIME  
REMEMBER  
RENJA  
RHUCLE  
ROOM 208  
SANGAM  
SECRETFLOWERS  
SHIMA33  
SKELETON LIPSTICK  
SOARER  
SPINO  
SUN CORP  
TIM SIX  
TOWER OF THE SUN  
USGOLF95  
VAGRANT  
VANISH  
VAPORKITTEH  
VOYAGE FUTUR  
WHEELS  
WINDOWS 96  
WIZARD OF LONELINESS  
WUSO  
ΔΙΘΗΡ διθηρ  
<\*> タンジエリソ  
ツルネ CRANE  
夢のチャンネル  
諸号零  
諸面 DESTINY  
氏。 海洋  
ヨマ YAMAHA  
암호

## LABEL EXCLUSIVES:

ASCAPe SOUNDS  
ALOE CITY RECORDS  
AZOTH  
DREAM CATALOGUE  
DREAMSHORE  
FORGOT IMPRINT  
GLOBAL PATTERN  
INFINITO AUDIO NETWORK  
NIGHT LIGHT TAPES  
NO PROBLEMA TAPES  
QINGDAO MARKET  
SEASIDE TAPES  
VIRTUAL SOUNDSYSTEM RECORDS

## VISUAL:

ALLHELLBREAKSLOOPS  
BROKEN MACHINE FILMS  
C1PM3R  
CINEMALAV  
DYSTOPIA KID  
FELIX ROTHSCHILD  
FR4ME  
GHOST  
KEVLARESTUDIO  
KOIKILL  
MOIREBENDER

SLEEP PATTERN  
PREKURSOR  
Q  
RED  
ROMEN KOVALENA  
SEMI.LAV  
TACHYONS-  
MISTER MELLOW  
TROPICAL VIRTUAL  
TV PICTURES  
YOVZOZ  
TESSERACTIVE

## LITERATURE:

ANDREW HOWELL  
DALE BRETT  
DMITRIY ZWEREV

FR4ME  
ININ GAO  
Y4M4. UB4  
SAMANTHA TATE



LONG LIVE THE UNDERGROUND

A BOOK OF VISUAL SIGNALWAVE  
1980 - 2001  
4 SECTIONS BASED ON JAPANESE TV

サンプル

PREVIEW



Vaporwave  
のサブジャンル・  
Signalwave

気象情報やCMをギャッピングして  
コレージュ風に音を作り上げるジギタルカルチャー  
の世界観を!! 国内はユニオンのみ!!  
100 PAGES

BY J HN RISE

# MTHU x DISK UNION

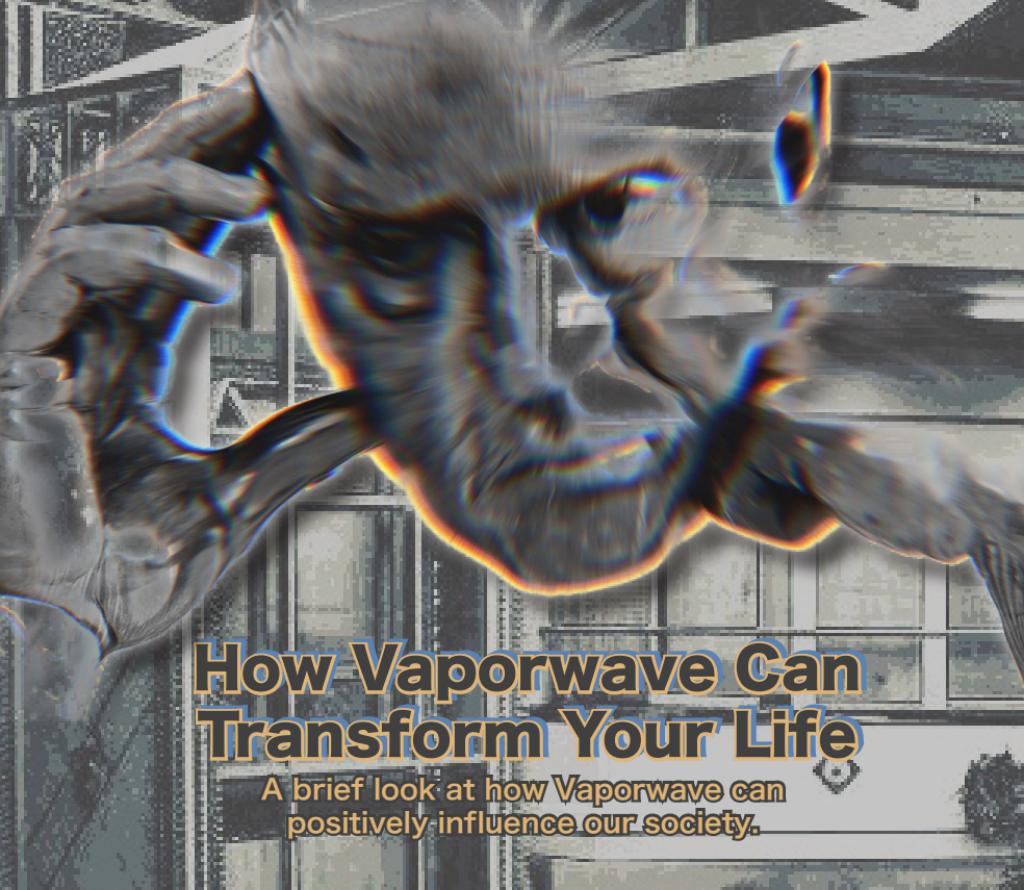
Back in March just before the world started closing down, I received an email from a wholesale buyer from Disk Union. We put together a contract and I sold them 100 copies of The Book of Visual Signalwave. It was my first ever business / book deal in my life and is still a peak highlight of my life. But thanks to Covid-19, bookstores across Japan started closing down. We closed the deal but after I made the shipment I stopped hearing from them, my dream of them actually hitting the shelves was fleeing.

That was until earlier this month Takuchi found a copy of it sitting on the shelf in the wild. Above is a photo they took for me and they even translated it. Sure my little book of Japanese commercials is literally just a picture book, but without it, I would have never started Visual Signals. I am so grateful and still can't believe I made something sitting on a Tokyo shelf. Copies can still be found on Amazon-

The world view of signal wave that creates a  
collage-like sound by zapping weather  
information and commercials in one book! !!  
Union only in Japan! !!



7:39 AM



# How Vaporwave Can Transform Your Life

A brief look at how Vaporwave can positively influence our society.

When I hear Vaporwave described as a "meme" I'm reminded of the fact that the term fails to fully encompass what vaporwave is and, more importantly, fails to acknowledge what Vaporwave has the potential to be.

In some context of Vaporwave the term "meme" may be somewhat appropriate; but generally, it is better to alternatively acknowledge Vaporwave as a lifestyle approach or design philosophy, if nothing else.

If newcomers to Vaporwave see it as only a meme then it becomes only a tool in which information is shared, spread, or trends; or worse, they dismiss the genre as a joke.

Though Vaporwave is relatively new, it isn't a trend. It's an acknowledgment and revelation of the post-modern era. It promotes a slow and thoughtful reflection on modernism that can be experienced in isolation. As a result, its popularity can be enhanced even in an era of social distancing. The genre is strengthened by reflection. The magic is in its efficiency to jog our collective memories and reignite our telepathic abilities.

Vaporwave tends to dissolve social class structures, it makes the archival practice accessible and instead focuses on the commonality between all diverse groups. It emphasizes that there was a shared, forgotten past, and even in the increased speed of technology and commerce, there is a common desire for slowness and meditation what once was.

There are many subgenres and styles of Vaporwave. But across the subgenres,

there is a common emphasis on city and industry, as well as the by-products of the metropolis.

And still, across many of the subsidiaries, there is an emphasis on the reverbed and slowed soundscapes that reinforce:

- 1) Slowness in the city is to be desired (if not necessary).
- 2) The desire for slowness should be (and is) an accessible and common interest among people.
- 3) The interest of the slowed and ambient soundscape can and should influence design methods in the real world, as well as the arts.

Oftentimes, the subgenre of Vaporwave called "mall-soft" is compared to that of elevator music. This soothing, non-intrusive, meditative mall-music was intentional in commercial spaces. Through this art form, we are reminded that common places in cities and suburban areas should be calming, and in some cases, as neutral as possible.

This neutrality is the blank space for endless opportunities in the mind of the young city-goer. Vaporwave often points out, that in the child's mind, the city should function, at the very least, as a neutral, peaceful, and historical facility for reflection. Vaporwave is the place online where people can share memories about what was important to them, they can find out why those memories were important and how those memories can influence a better design philosophy for our future.

No longer the days of excess. Live long the days of sustainability and calm.

The way that much of the youth might arrive at philosophical discourse in the postmodern era (or perhaps the "metamodern" era) will be in the analysis of corporate and industrial expansion.

Often, the infrastructures that shaped the cities were the supreme model for excellence. They were examples of creative boundlessness. The ideological impact of these structures, however, went largely unexamined by people who inhabited them. As a result, these structures became like ghosts, especially in their demolished and abandoned state. Architecture was only seen and utilized, but without any true acknowledgment of their significant cultural impact, they became relatives of exploitation.

Today much has changed. With the collective consciousness that is the internet, the Vaporwave movement has evolved itself to the true dreamlike state. Beyond space and time, beyond nature or city structure, truly ethereal, truly beyond.

Vaporwave allows us to see the potentiality for the perfect city. This vision and possibility of an urban utopia no longer belongs to the distinguished academics or masterful architects.

It belongs to everyone.—

We live for the most part within enclosed spaces. These form the environment from which our culture grows. Our culture is in a sense a product of our architecture. If we wish to raise our culture to a higher level, we are forced for better or worse to transform our architecture. And this will be possible only if we remove the enclosed quality from the spaces within which we live. This can be done only through the introduction of glass architecture that lets the sunlight and the light of the moon and stars into our rooms not merely through a few windows, but simultaneously through the greatest possible number of walls that are made entirely of glass-colored glass. The new environment that we shall create must bring with it a new culture". Paul Scheerbart, Glass Architecture (1914)



# NO PROBLEMA TAPES NEEDS YOUR HELP

Sad times in the vapor scene. This month No Problema Tapes shared terrible news as their workshop is seen completely burned down. Video of the fire department putting out the remains of the fire can be seen on their twitter as they reached out for help.

"Today is a very sad day. The house where we had our workshop / hq completely burned down. We don't have a loss tally yet, but I assume we lost all of our equipment and supplies."

Here's the official statement from the GoFundMe.org page:

"NO PROBLEMA has been around since 2013, introducing alternative music worldwide with noticeable artists as: 断片化された友人, Cat System Corp, Sangam, DARKPYRAMID, Lucid Sound Driver, t e l e p a t h テレパシー能力者 to name a few.

Please give whatever you can, little or big.

Thank you "

Maybe you can't support them via the Go Fund Me but you can still help out by supporting them on Bandcamp by purchasing digital albums. Not only do you get some Vaporwave music, you are helping the scene in a big way. No Problema is a staple in the scene and it would be awful to see them leave because of a little set back. Let's show em support and help bring them back to some form of normal. A little bit of kindness can go a long way during our rough times in 2020.



GoFundMe Link



Bandcamp Link

# NO PROBLEMA TAPES

## CURRENT RELEASES



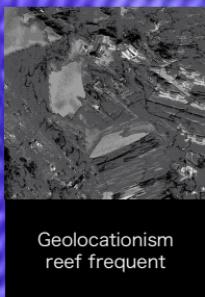
Darker Places  
Tower Of The Sun  
壇の次元



JESHUA  
HANTASI



Une Histoire De  
L'Au Delà (Original  
Soundtrack) Chotto  
Suki & Barthélémy At  
Security



Geolocationism  
reef frequent



ULTRAMARINE  
BLOOM  
Brook Haven



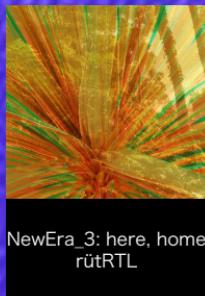
空想  
探求:sleep&dream



LEMON 1:55:12  
Jan 26, 2017  
タンジェリン



mountain ambient II  
.foundation



NewEra\_3: here, home  
rütRTL



Hisoka Yume  
Nova Dive



Ode to Dreams  
ダンケ Vibes



NOCTURNOS  
VOL. 1  
Solomachin



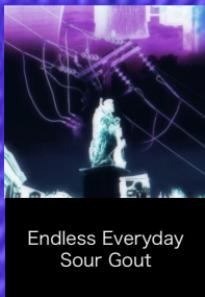
Nocturnos Vol. 2  
Solomachin



Another Era  
蘭桂坊NightLife



Grove  
08風



Endless Everyday  
Sour Gout

# Farragol

@ 感傷唱片行 // TAIWAN

SP404 LO-FI LIVE SET



Listen to the stream  
on facebook



Taiwan just had their cassette day at 感傷唱片行 (kind of blue records) in which Farragol played a live Lo-Fi set and Future Funk power house Neoncity Records provided some out of stock cassettes. Shibuya Nasu let me know about it as he attended. Can you imagine a real life concert people actually are attending without fear of death? Taiwan seems to be doing alright in 2020.



Additionally, earlier this month, FarragoL released his latest cassette, *MindCapsule*, for pre-order. The idea of this album was inspired by SpaceX's first successfully launched human space in May, 2020. Imagining there was an astronaut made this music during his space mission time. Compared to the live set, this album holds true to the mission. It sounds like a new age sci-fi ambient infused album. Although FarragoL's bread and butter is Lo-Fi this album seems on the edge of Tycho status. Production is higher quality than most releases we've seen from the Lo-fi world with features from actual singers. I recommend the track Lonely Pickle (ft. 青醬肉絲 Cyan).

Pre-order is still live on  
感傷唱片行 (kind of blue records) for  
a limited time.





感傷唱片行 Store front with Display album art



Neoncity Records collection on sale

Photos by Shibuya Nasu



# #japanesejazz

"The first part of Magical Mystery Mix's 1970s Japanese Jazz series, a little more than an hour of deep Jazz brewed during the 70s in Japan. The mix puts together original compositions for the most part, and a couple of reinterpretations of American Jazz standards."



## 70s Japanese Jazz Mix (Jazz-funk, Soul Jazz, Rare groove, Drum Breaks..)

I'm not exactly the biggest Jazz fan but throw the words "70s" and "Japanese" in a YouTube title and I'll listen to it. Actually, what I think draws me in the most, is the pure musical creation seen the face of the man on the cover. The man himself is YAMAMOTO TSUYOSHI, who happens to be a "genius piano player", yet some how, the creator of this mix didn't include him. Really it goes to show you that marketing is everything when this 2.5 mil view video lacks the artist from the visual draw (reminds me of how album art sells better than music some times in Vapor)

Regardless of the intentions, the mix is quite wonderful. As one listens, you can feel the 1970s in action. Flutes, live percussion, jazz, funk, grooves and emotion. "Japanese people don't simply imitate, they EMBRACE foreign cultures. You feel the authenticity in the music," As DISCO-INFERNO-70 adds in the comments, and I total agree. There isn't an exact feeling of where this music came from. The great thing about Jazz is it transcended geographic bounds for a brief time and those who had a chance to create and improve it were praised for it. Even 50+ years later, these artists are pulling in new ears.



If the YouTube algorithm hasn't sent this one your way yet, do yourself a favor and put this on for an hour one weekend, you'll thank yourself for it.

*Song Dongye blends struggle with visual tension in black and white symbolism.*



Chinese folk singer-songwriter, Song Dongye (宋冬野), is known for his dark emotional indie sound that drives the listener to contemplate their existence. Although limited in his birth country (thanks to a minor weed scandal), he has found solace in both the west and other asian countries.

The the music video 郭源潮 (or Guo, Yuan Chao) a young man and a beggar cross paths through various scenes that make it difficult to interpret the exact meaning. The lyrics contain main references, puns and metaphors. If the music video wasn't mysterious enough, the lyrics will provid a life time of speculation for a non-native chinese speaker. Dongye explains this songs lyrics are about his understanding of life in a form of a fable, a type of literacy that Chinese culture is known for their abundance of. The film set is on Shengshan Island (an eastern island in China) which depicts strong currents bashing rocks and mountain sides that protect the land and cliffs one take to find passage. In total, it took 8 days to complete the filming.

"The grim black-and-white images are supplemented with wonderful composition, which is full of visual tension, but it does not deliberately carry out a logical



narrative, but restores the director's imagination with strong symbolic meaning."

"The deep conflict and reconciliation in the song, frame after frame emerges in the image, calm and powerful, full of content, and shaken in the turbulent emotional eruption-from music to video, this is exactly what people want to see "Guo Yuanchao" is also Song Dongye with unique aesthetic consciousness and personal style." (literally translated from the Chinese description on Youtube)

The song is awfully beautiful and full of emotions. Even if one does not understand the lyrics, the message is up to you to discover.



宋冬野正逐漸成長為一個真正的「音樂人」

**H**ello my friends,

It's me Porter Vong here...maybe you have heard of me? My clients know me as many things, including The Spirit of Success and the figurehead of The Winner's Circle, but perhaps you know me better as The Richest Man in Vaporwave.

As some who remember could tell you, when I showed up on the scene, I was already rich! I was already a winner! As any one of my clients could tell you, my mission from the start has been to help YOU do the same—to have it all and live your dreams, "Just Like Me!".

That mission carries on, and The Winner's Circle is stronger than ever, but getting here was not easy, my friend. Even as a rich winner from the start, it wasn't my wealth that paved the way, nor my seminars, nor even my music and persona...the only reason I am still here and have my clients by my side is the same reason for which you are probably buying and reading this magazine: the value of friendship, and the power it has to inspire and motivate when we feel we cannot do it on our own.

I always knew inside I was a winner, but I didn't always think that I could win. When I started out, I didn't have any clients! The world didn't know my Secrets for Success!

Unlike today, with plenty of eager clients who know what I am about and are fully ready to win, I had nobody. Well okay, my friend, not quite...at a time when no one knew who I was, and no one was sure what I could offer, it was just a few individuals who saw the potential in me and gave me a chance in their hearts—not only because they believed in The Spirit of Success, but because they believed in ME and connected with me as a person.

Now look, my friend, is this really about me? NO, this is about my friend Kite, who was one of those very special people and made it possible for me to be here today. I know that he can relate to pouring his soul into vaporwave, and never being sure if it would be worth it. If you bought this magazine—if you're reading this right now—then maybe he has been that special friend for you, and like me, you know he is a WINNER!!!

-Porter Vong



# Vaporwave & KENDAMA

chillwavekittens // @chillwavekittens



If you are looking for a new hobby or something to take the edge off, I cannot recommend Kendama enough. If there's ever an opportunity for an Electronicon 3, I will be rolling deep with a backpack full of dama's for the homies to play with and will definitely give some away. Shoutout KNDRSN

Kendama is a wooden Japanese skill toy. Best way to explain, it is an advanced ball-in-a-cup. Three cups of all different sizes, a spike and a ball with a hole in it. I'm not a video game person, so kendama is very special to me. If there was an apocalyptic situation and there was no electricity, you could still play. I've been playing kendama much longer than I've listened to vaporwave but I have to say, it is a perfect fit. Most kendama players listen to hip/hop while they play. I prefer less 'in-your-face' music while I play because it helps my flow.



Right now, my favorites to play to are Windows 96, FM Skyline and ESPRIT. In a way, kendama is like vaporwave where you make up new tricks based on ones that already exist. You can sample something you've seen someone do and make up your own trick based on a borrowed idea. The only crossover I've seen outside of myself is R23X playing with one in Neo Gaia Legend: The Movie. He landed 2 pull-up spikes, Big cup to little cup to base cup and airplane. When I saw this I just about screamed.

# THE MYSTERIOUS UNWANTED SIGNALS

an interview with Glaciology

Recently, Glaciology (@glaciological) launched a brand new label called Unwanted Signals, an Internet Stories-like label featuring only singles. We got in touch with Glaciology to talk about Unwanted Signals.

## What is Unwanted Signals? What lead to its creation?

Unwanted Signals is a collection of nondescript singles from artists around the internet in which every single seemingly appears out of thin air with no forewarning. The idea of US has been something I've been thinking about (and hinting about) for a while.

What ultimately caused me to finally create the label was a Discord conversation between me and a few other artists and labels about creating a small label that we would dedicate songs to, this sadly never came to fruition, but ultimately caused me to create US.



**Tweet**



**Glaciology** @Glaciological · May 9

I started a label, there are no albums on it

1

1

11

1

## US is interesting in that you only allow single track albums. What's the reason behind this?

There were a few reasons I chose to exclusively release singles. My first thought was that it would be easy for people to submit good work. I feel as if limiting people to one track forces artists to toil over the tracks they submit, as it can't be lost in a tracklist of another random vaporwave album. Secondly is because it is unique, I haven't seen any other labels have this quirk of only allowing singles, meaning it may attract new listeners and potential artists. Lastly, is because it allows artists to create or introduce new aliases without dedicating a full-length project to them.

**US's discography has the same Neoclassical/Computer Gaze tone as Internet Stories or Video Forum's output. What is it about that style of Vaporwave/Signalwave that draws you to it?**

Internet Stories was one of the biggest inspirations during Unwanted Signal's creation, and I essentially used VF's work on the label as a blueprint to create mine. The aesthetic and vision of IS (and the style of music they host) allows for creative experimentation such as aforementioned hidden/new aliases, and the sporadic release schedule.

**What would you say to anyone who wants to submit something to Unwanted Signals?**

I'd say to make sure to have a tasteful album cover/track name, and something that you'll be proud of working on that'll hold up for (possibly) years.

**How does your label shape the future of Vaporwave?  
Is that even an intention?**

If there's one thing about the label that I hope lasts on the scene is to encourage artists to limit themselves, and to not be afraid to start new aliases outside of their main project.

**Is there anything else people should know about the project or you?**

I'm not sure what to say about myself, but as for the label I hope to host artists outside of vaporwave at some point.

There will also be a release the day of the magazine's release (and hopefully the following days^^)



# **Nostalgic Collages, Plunderphonics**

and the use of Samples

**By Ron De La Garza, Wave //Citizen**

The concept of memory in relation to time enriches itself through nostalgia. Often, we find ourselves returning to places we are most familiar with or have our closest memories attached to through inciting triggers with sight, smell and sound, among the other senses. We cling to memories building mental or physical scrapbooks, and filling boxes with mementos and totems that possess immense historical power special to ourselves and our experiences. Much like the collages of memories we build, taking pieces of relevant history from various points of significance in our lives, musicians have often been attuned to do the same. The musician can use bits and pieces of sound and music they have discovered from both past and present and amalgamate them to create works of art.

Plunderphonics is one such style of musical creation which is centered around solely building a composition through the stitching and weaving of found sounds and musical samples. The possibilities of these combinations are endless and span the musical spectrum from cohesive works, to dissonant experiments that are unrecognizable from their original form. We can turn to two sonically different albums to observe the work within this medium, Oneohtrix Point Never's *Replica* and The Avalanches' *Since I Left You*. For *Replica*, Daniel Lopatin (Oneohtrix) built many of his compositions through the cutting and melding of old commercials. His aim was to take the work of these commercially based snippets and completely rearrange them to clash with the narrative they were derived from. The work is a dream induced journey through sonic tunnels of recognizable and undistinguishable sounds. The nostalgia they trigger persuades one to reminisce about the times they have spent, mind numbingly glued to their television not knowing where one ad ends, and the others seem to begin. The Avalanches took a more structured and musically recognizable approach to the use of the sounds they procured. The album *Since I Left You* has been described as a musical masterpiece of precision and intent. The music, originally aimed to tell a love story, is danceable and memorable. Robbie Chater who made up one half of the group estimated that there would be roughly 3500 samples used throughout the album and listening through you would be astounded to find that the compositions were not original to begin with.

The usage of samples in music goes back farther than modern music but was first popularized in early hip-hop, from the house parties that DJs would play where they cued the same record on two turntables and fade the mixer between the two to only play the breaks of the songs, to the sampling of early RnB in 80s and 90s hip-hop that became a staple within the genre as we see it even today. The inception of the sample-based song is extremely prevalent in the music we find in our own scene today in Vaporwave and its many brother and sister genres. The focus of this as well nods at the nostalgic properties of plunderphonics and hip-hop and amplifies the nostalgic factor. The haze of the music, which spans the use of samples from funk and pop music, takes the listener on a journey through places they have only been in memories and allows them to be out of self for the moment they are consuming it. Taking advantage of this journey and reveling in its nostalgic relevance is one of the gifts that music has afforded us, and we should seek to cherish it like our memories.

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DESIGNED BY NMESH

# Rainforest Hill

熱帶雨林の丘



Lindsheaven Virtual Plaza's Rainforest Hill and Rainforest Hill II is some of the best ambient meditation albums I've ever listened.

If you've read previous versions of Visual Signals you know I'm deep on my journey of getting rid of self and following buddhism in my daily life. It's the only way I can continue a life after so much suffering. And that's why I've turn to this album.

One is calmed with a wonderful collection of soft melodies, the sound of wind and cheerful birds to guide you through your relaxing stroll through the deep unknown.

Maybe meditation isn't your thing but countless others from YouTube to Bandcamp all reveal a deep connection to these two albums. Some explaining how this album is one of the few that helps them focus, while others falling a sleep mid-sentence as their insomnia is quickly swept away.

**inaxious writes:** *"Time does not consume itself when this tape is playing, everything wraps around it so it can be preserved, as every rainforest should be. The immersion this gives you is something I really never felt before, truly an amazing experience. My past self was able to meet me again, and for that, I am thankful."*

If you're looking for some Vapor to center yourself and experience the outside world from inside your mind, grab some headphones to this one.



Virtual Plaza

RAINFOREST HILL I+II

# Rainforest Hill II

熱帯雨林の丘 II

I personally don't think the two albums could compete between each-other, which is exactly what Asura Revolver must have thought when they released a split of this album on cassette. Released in the simpler times of 2020, January 28th, this cassette has been long sold out. It's one of the few cassettes I'm actively looking to obtain, yet I never see anyone posting it in their collection photos or even on Discogs.



This even had a second release for MiniDisc day but I actually think the design of the cassette look more natural. The full album art, the solid white and forest greens really add to the aesthetic. I even like that Asura Revolver decided to print their own logo in a white silhouette to not distract from the grainy VHS nature.

I've had a chance to listen to other releases by Lindsheaven Virtual Plaza and they do dabble in late night and other sub genres of Vaporwave but to me this album has met perfection.

## ASURA:43

MEDITATION INITIATION TAPE RETRIEVED AT AREA 1243  
TRACKS 5 - 7 FEATURES GENERATIVE AND UNKNOWN MOTIFS. DO NOT USE  
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All article / concepts / design / ads / etc were developed by KITE0080 unless otherwise stated. See Credits for more information

**Note:**

- Every artist, label, project, album, opinion, thought, tweet, post, blog, YouTube video, anything anyone posts is not my opinion. Each of these things belong to the respective artist / label / person. I don't know what horrific thing someone might say in the future either. Do not hold me liable for it please :)

**Credits:**

- Shibuya Nasu // @ShibuyaNasu not only did we get an interview together, he helped add photos for the Taiwanese cassette day article. I feel like this issue is super special because of his friendship.
- chillwavekittens @chillwavekittens "Vaporwave & Kendama"
- Jay Wallace // @JayWallace1 "The cosmic truth by withering spheres"
- Caring for your Vinyl - N3kkun
- TIDE 3 by DUTCHTIDE
- Ramirez De Leon's Vinyl Collection
- Royal DM70nx Organizer by Jay Wallace
- Applying Vaporwave Production to Video Game Development by Matt Christodoulou @vibex
- Qingdao Market Interview by Eric Roy // @RobertEricRoy
- How Vaporwave Can Transform Your Life by Ramirez De Leon
- Porter Vong
- The Mysterious Unwanted Signals by Jay Wallace
- Nostalgic Collages, Plunderphonics by Ron De La Garza WAVE//CITIZEN
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